





## SIR RUTHERFORD ALCOCK ON THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

Sir Rutherford Alcock contributes an article to the current number of the *Quarterly Review*, which is entitled "Opium and Common Sense," which is worthy of more than a passing glance. It is a fair résumé of the subject, and the author keeps well to his text on the "common sense" side. Sir Rutherford Alcock may fairly be taken as unbiased, and to his opinion, therefore, much more weight must be given to his views. So much is stated on both sides which bears the impress of honest remarks that the opinions of one whose sympathies are in either direction, and at the same time is well qualified to judge, are entitled to more than ordinary consideration. The author commences by running over all the old ground from Commissioner Lin's time, and further, by pointing out that it is not true that it is only the Opium of the first China war of 1842 which has entered precisely the same. "A there has been Opium or illegal trade of any kind in question the same causes would have led to the same result." He then proceeds to give some idea of who first brought Opium to China, and at what date, the quantity grown there, &c. He deals rather severely with the supply of Hong-Chung to the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, characterizing it as a "triumph of misrepresentation." He proceeds, and states—

"What efforts China is now making I cannot say; but of this, we may feel sure, that, if they in any degree resemble those hitherto, they by far exceed anything that has been done. The Government in the past all right-minded men of this and every other country, who have been instrumental in the increase in the consumption of the native plant or the larger half of China, away from all foreign influence or compulsion as an evidence of the adoption of 'effective measures to enforce the laws against the cultivation of the poppy in China, and otherwise check the use of opium.'

But enough of this last and futile attempt of the Chinese Government to put a stop to the opium in open coast with their hands as an injured and oppressed party. It is too hopeless a case for further argument, and in no doubt equity could such a plaintiff escape being nonsuited by a judge or jury of honest men.

One more extract of Sir R. Alcock's view of the Government relations. He says—"I should be glad, in common with many others, if it were possible, without any aggravation of the existing difficulties, to bring about a cessation of the mischievous play that the Indian Government should be relieved of all participation in the growing, manufacturing, and selling of the drug, which is not the proper function of a Government."

Altogether the article is a fair critique on the relations of the opium question, and if the author does not express his own opinions on all the phases he has given the public a fair review of the whole question.—*London & China Express.*

Nothing, says the *United Service Gazette*, has yet been done in India, which is being urged by the Viceregal Council on the Home Government. The proposal from Simla is to disperse with four-horse, one-field, and six-garrison batteries; but the military authorities at home are very much opposed to the reduction, which, nevertheless, will probably be carried out.

## COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

MADRAS, 9th January. EXPORT CARGO. For Liverpool, London—8,682 boxes-to, 814 half-casks tea, 3,654 picas tea, 792 hals silk, 111 hals waste silk, 16 hals pincers, 10 cases silk goods, and 1,068 boxes sundries. For Continent—23 hals silk, 25 boxes silk goods, and 163 picas sundries.

ON LONDON. Bank Bills, on demand—3,84 Bank Bills, of 30 days' sight—3,83 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight—3,84 Credits, of 4 months' sight—3,84 Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight—3,84

ON PARIS. Bank Bills, on demand—4,63 Credits, of 4 months' sight—4,73

ON BOMBAY—Bank 3 days' sight—2203

ON SHANGHAI—Bank, sight—73 Private, 30 days' sight—73

SHAKES. Docks have been raised at 4% per cent. premium for end of the month, closing firm with buyers at 45 per cent. premium for east. Chinese Insurances are won to \$23 per share or dividend for cash.

On the Insurance Society of Canton—117 per cent. premium.

On the Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,000 per share.

On the Insurance Company of Shanghai—\$1,500 per share.

North China Insur.—The 1,175 per share. Yangtze Insurance Association—The \$75 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company—\$25 per share or dividend.

On the Insurance Company, Limited—The 148 per cent. premium.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$83 per share.

China Fire Insurance Company—Shares—\$295 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Bank Company's Shares—45 per cent. premium.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamship Co.'s Shares—8.75 per cent. premium.

China Coast Steam Navigation Company—The 183 per share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—52 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—100 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$165 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company ("Ventures")—3 per cent. premium.

Hongkong Ice Company's Shares—31.00 per share.

China Fire and Marine Insurance Company's Shares—\$50 per share.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874—\$1,000 Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874—\$1,000 Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1881—\$1,000 Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1881—\$1,000 Nominal.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

Yesterdays' Temperature, January 9th.

Temperature—1.000

Thermometer—1.000

Thermometer—1.00

